

Incidents of fire in defence depots

†451. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of the incidents of fire taken place in the ordnance depot during the last three years;
- (b) the separate details of the loss of arms and ammunitions and loss of life and property in each case;
- (c) whether Government has conducted inquiry in every case;
- (d) if so, the outcome of the every enquiry and action taken thereon; and
- (e) the measures being taken by Government to check the recurring of such incidents in future and safeguarding the interests of the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) During the last three years only one incident of fire has taken place in 21 FAD, Khundroo, J&K on 11.8.2007. Nineteen people died and ammunition worth Rs.1313 crores approximately was destroyed in the incident. The civil administration has made a preliminary estimate of collateral damage to crops, fruits, livestock and buildings for Rs.39.33 crores.

2. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered by the Army. A number of measures have been taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:

- (i) All Depots have updated safety and security instructions.
- (ii) All Depots have been inspected by a Board of Officers to check adequacy of safety and security arrangements.
- (iii) 225 trucks for fire fighting have been provided to the units.
- (iv) Unserviceable ammunitions is being disposed off on priority.

MIG air crash

452. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of MIG air crashes during the last three years and the casualties therein;
- (b) the details of loss incurred due to the frequent air crashes;
- (c) whether Government has found out the reasons for the continued MiG air crashes; and
- (d) if so, whether Government has evaluated any measures to contain such air crashes in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A total number of 22 MiG aircraft of the Indian Air Force have crashed from 1.4.2006 till date. There were 3 casualties in these crashes. Each accident is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly to check their recurrence in future and also assessed loss incurred. Besides,

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